Don't head to the mall without a plan this weekend We've got expert deal-hunting tips, insider info on the best sales and picks for the hottest gifts this year

Black Friday Guide 2012

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black friday guide

Shop with a plan on Black Friday

It's a jungle full of coupon-clipping soccer moms out there Before you go, arm yourself with expert advice

GETTY IMAGES

Only the strong survive Black Friday: Don't head into this without a strategy — and snacks.

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff: It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favorite stores to stay focused."

Keep your receipts: You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."

Bum a ride: "I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a real thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals: Some deals, such as doorbusters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Don't fake being an early bird: Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for Best Buy's doors to open isn't your deal, sleep in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift "personality quiz." It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

Top 3

Reasons to man up and go to Ikea

We're going to be straight with you: Ikea is not for the Black Friday beginner. But surviving a trip there this weekend not only earns you hard-core shopping cred; it also makes for some pretty good deals.

METRO

1 On Friday, the LACK side table is just $5.

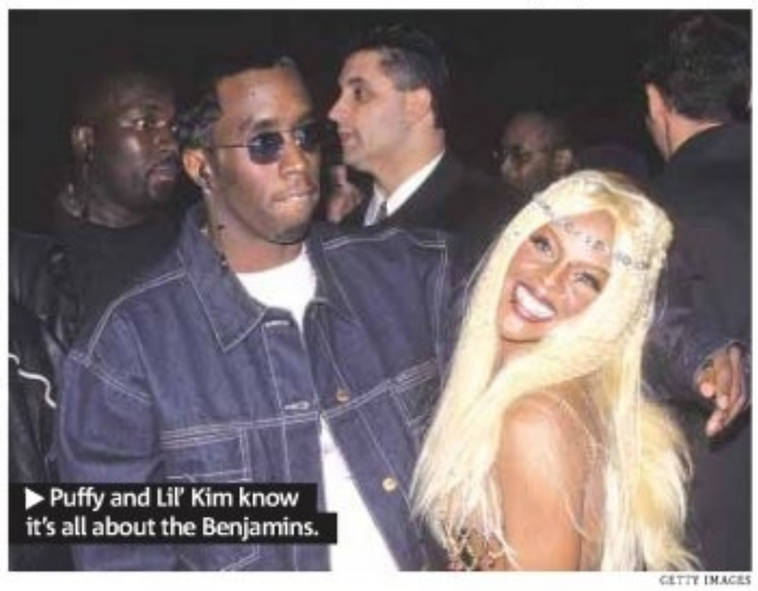
2 Scoop up the seven-piece 365+ cookware set for $20 on Saturday.

3 The Cirkustalt children's tent is reduced to $20 on Sunday.

Songza

Your Black Friday playlist

Black Friday is here! And since hip-hop has always celebrated consumer culture, we can't think of a better playlist than the Go Shopping list at **www.metro.us/songza** and **www.songza.com/listen/go-shopping-songza**. These tunes are all about making millions and then splashing the cash on cars, clothes and high-end liquor. And you're basically going to do the same sort of spending at the malls. So feel good about it. It really is all about the Benjamins, and within this five-hour mix, you will hear Puffy, Lil' Kim, The LOX and The Notorious B.I.G. tell you just that!



Puffy and Lil' Kim know it's all about the Benjamins.

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— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. Each week Metro teams up with Songza to bring you fun new playlists as you enter into the weekend.

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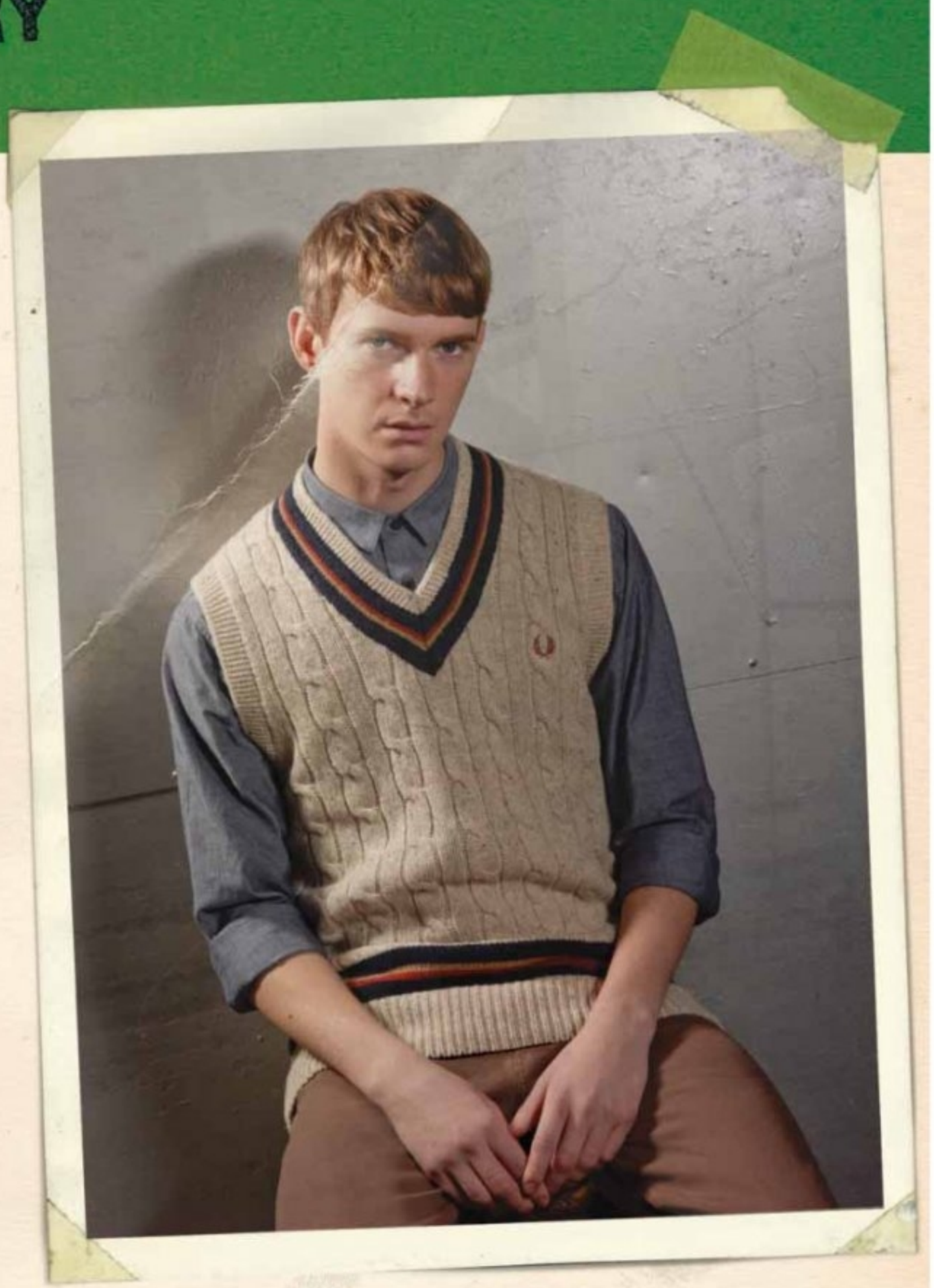

Gifts for kids

The toys to talk about this year

Apparently, your childhood was missing an Anteater Bug Vac

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. Meet Spider Spud, Mr. Potato Head's new friend who is — sorry, old bud — way cooler than a root vegetable with eyebrows. **$10, www.hasbrotoyshop.com**

2. Mattel's new Pinktastic collection took everything we loved about Barbie and rolled it around in pink glitter. **$20 each, at Kohl's stores and www.kohls.com**

3. The International Spy Museum's gift shop has some seriously cool gear for your budding Bond. On our wish list: The Spy Evidence Kit (with fingerprint powder!) and the invisible ink pen. **$22 (kit) and $10 (pen), www.spymuseumstore.org**

4. The only invite we want this holiday season is one to this fairy tea party. **$68, www.mysweetmuffin.com**

5. DwellStudio's plushes look like they were plucked from the set of a Wes Anderson movie. **$40 each, www.dwellstudio.com**

6. Gak was disgusting when you were a kid. It still is — because goo that makes fart sounds will never go out of style. **$6, www.shop.nick.com**

7. Surefire sign a toy will be a hit with a little girl: It's called My Little Pony Twilight Sparkle Car. **$25, www.hasbrotoyshop.com**

8. Add a dose of unplugged whimsy with Moulin Roty's shadow puppets. **$18-$21, www.mysweetmuffin.com**

9. The Nat Geo WILD Anteater Bug Vac sucks up bugs for little ones to view in a removable belly chamber before safely releasing them. Seriously. Buy us one, please. **$27, www.ngstore.com**

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Phone it in

Black Friday: There's an app for that

CNET Scan and Shop: Not sure about that digital camera that's on sale? Use this app to scan the bar code of electronics, then read editor and user reviews.

shopkick: Earn "kick points" just for walking in to popular Black Friday destinations including Macy's, Target, Best Buy and Old Navy. Then, cash them in for rewards including Starbucks drinks, iTunes gift cards and more.

iStoreHours: This one's priceless on Black Friday: Download it to find out when your favorite stores open.

SnipSnap: Don't want to carry around an envelope of coupons? Use this app to snap pictures of offers, which are converted into mobile coupons that cashiers can scan. Or, browse their database for coupons that other users have uploaded.

RedLaser: This top-rated app is like a shopping genie: Scan bar codes at major retailers for on-the-spot price comparisons. Then, buy that TV instantly on Amazon if the price is better, or get the store to match the online offer.

Black Friday App: Custom-built for this weekend's deals, this app from Dealnews.com lets you browse the "leaked" ads from major retailers, which you can then share with friends. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

Deal detox

Need an emergency centering after the mall traffic? The Pocket Yoga app offers 27 different yoga sessions and includes breath cues.

5 Things not to buy on Black Friday

Not everything is at its lowest price Lindsay Sakraida, features director at Dealnews.com, tells us what we should skip this weekend

Toys

Unless you want to ruin your daughter's life forever, scoop up that McKenna American Girl doll right away. But your average toy? Sakraida says to hold off. "We see quite a few fairly decent toy deals, but things will get cheaper later in December," she says. "Unless it's a really hot item that you're after, wait for them to get cheaper in the two weeks before Christmas."

Name-brand electronics

TVs, digital cameras and laptops are huge Black Friday draws, but it's not necessarily the time to buy one. The generic brand TV that the big-box store is offering is, likely, a huge bargain, says Sakraida. But anything name brand — Sony, Samsung, Canon, etc. — will see its best price in the first couple months of 2013, right before the latest models hit shelves.

GETTY IMAGES

If you're looking for name-brand electronics, hold off until early next year for the best price.

The exceptions are Apple products, says Sakraida. They don't usually go on sale, so take advantage of any promotion if you were planning to buy them this year.

Winter apparel

If you're shopping for yourself, wait. "You'll see a lot of good coupons — but if you're looking for something like a heavy down winter coat, you'll see a better price in January," says Sakraida.

Holiday decor

"When it comes to Christmas decorations, these are things they're hoping you'll just grab while you're out," says Sakraida. "Wait until it's closer to Christmas to get a better price."

Jewelry and watches

If you're shopping for gifts, go ahead and buy these on Black Friday. But if you're looking for yourself, wait until after the holidays to buy jewelry or watches, says Sakraida. These are popular gifts that will sell anyway, so retailers aren't offering their best deals.

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Treat yourself

The pixelated Rodarte Designer Tumbler, $12.95, now at Starbucks

Fuel for your bargain hunting

No matter what you're looking for on Black Friday, you'll likely end up at Starbucks at some point. If you happen to purchase their Verismo System — think a Keurig coffee maker specially equipped to brew Starbucks espressos, lattes and coffees — Friday through Monday, they'll issue you a Starbucks Gold Card. Usually only earned after spending a fortune on foamy drinks, it scores you free refills on select beverages and other freebies. Also on our caffeinated wish-list: the new pixelated Rodarte Designer Tumbler, designed by fashion darlings Kate and Laura Mulleavy. METRO

Gifts for pets

Don't forget your other kids!

- You like your pets better than your friends and family
- Treat them to a little something special this year

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. P.L.A.Y. pet beds are filled with plush bedding made from recycled plastic bottles. And it's not just your pup who gets a present: For every bed purchased through its website, the company donates one to a shelter dog through its Warm Bellies Initiative. **$98-$218, www.petplay.com**

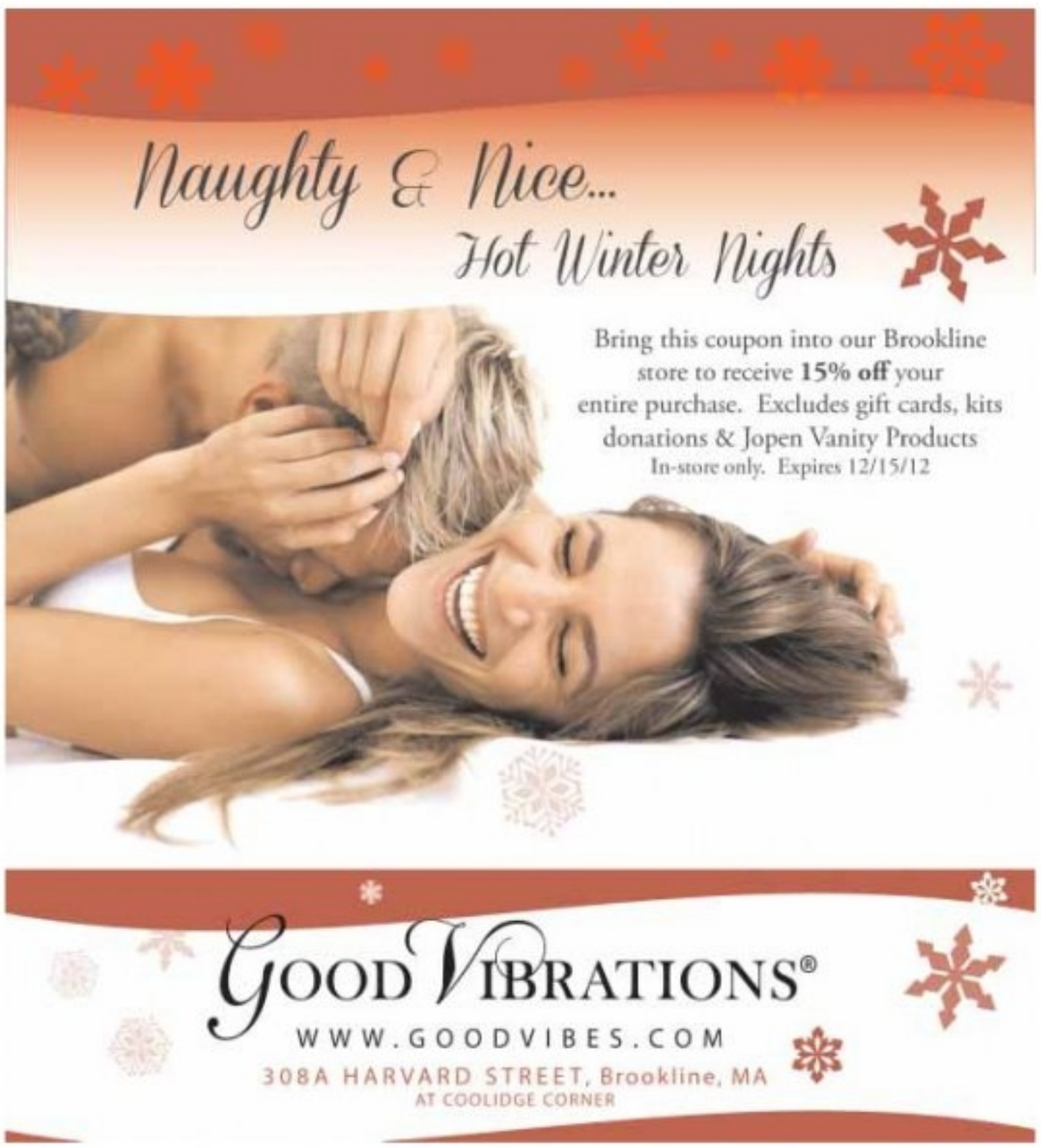
2. As a rule, cats prefer couches to scratch pads. But even if your kitty only uses the DJ Cat Scratching Pad once, it will be well worth it. **$35, www.uncommongoods.com**

3. Petco doesn't stop at dog and cat costumes: This year, you can pick up holiday apparel for all creatures great and small. On Black Friday, anyone who makes a purchase with a Petco reward card gets a free pair of dog antlers. **From $5, at Petco stores**

4. Dinner turns into a game with this interactive feeder from Company of Animals that encourages your hungry pup to slow down and enjoy his food for once. **$36, www.amazon.com**

Donate this year

Don't forget pets less pampered than yours. The holidays are the perfect time to donate much-needed money, supplies and volunteer time to your local animal shelter. Or donate to the Humane Society's work to protect and advocate for animals — including pets affected by Hurricane Sandy — by visiting them at **www.hsus.org.**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philosophy: wide eyes open, you live your dreams
the microdelivery exfoliating body wash
philosophy: your age, beauty, state of mind, problems are within. clear the path. feeling your perception, and you are unlimited. radiant.
11

Priced pretty

Dyson vacuums

Through Monday, all Dyson products are 25 percent off at any retailer and at **www.dyson.com.**

Dyson's DC41 Complete

From limited door-busters to more casual weekend deals, what's on retailers' Black Friday menus ◗ Too tired from turkey? ◗ Many offers are available online

1 Where: Walmart
What: Walmart's Black Friday began insanely early, at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving, with specials on toys, apparel and home goods. On Black Friday proper, shop for discounts on everything from furniture (the Better Homes and Gardens Deluxe Recliner for $199) to cellphones (get a $100 Walmart gift card with the purchase of select smartphones).

2 Where: Kohl's
What: Kohl's many specials include 50 percent off toys from Fisher-Price, Playskool, Little Tikes, Barbie, Disney Princess and Hot Wheels, among other lines.
Plus: You can shop more than 500 Black Friday specials at Kohls.com. Through Sunday, earn $15 Kohl's Cash for every $50 spent (in stores or online).

9

3 Where: J.C. Penney
What: For its only sale of the year, J.C. Penney — which recently slashed prices and did away with specials — is opening at 6 a.m. on Friday for a no-coupons-required sale.
Plus: Click over to www.jcp.com to shop many Black Friday sales.

4 Where: Gap
What: Gap stores opened at midnight on Thanksgiving. Discounts of up to 60 percent off and deals including $19 sweaters extend throughout Black Friday.
Plus: Saturday also has door-buster deals until noon.

5 Where: Sports Authority
What: Most locations opened at midnight on Thanksgiving and will offer door-buster deals until 3 p.m. on Black Friday proper, including 35 percent off NCAA, MLB, NBA, NHL and MLS fan apparel and a $210 Parkside 12' trampoline with enclosure.

6 Where: Athleta
What: Athleta's "Take a Breather from Black Friday" in-store events will feature free fitness classes, giveaways and personal shoppers to do the work for you.

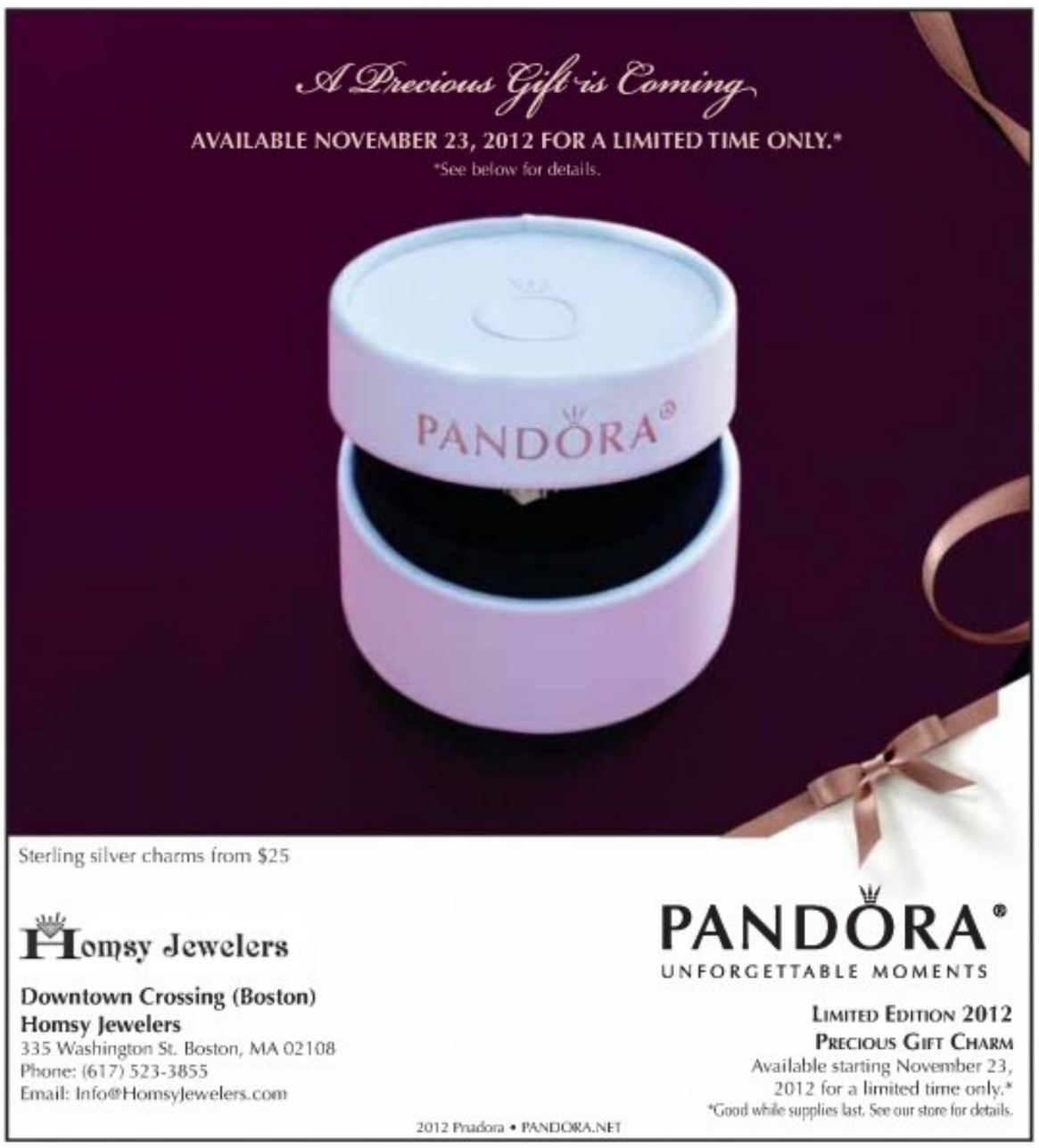
7 Where: Sears
What: Sears opened at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving and is staying open continuously until 10 p.m. on Friday. Door-busters include $500 NordicTrack treadmills and Craftsman 18-volt cordless drills for $30.

8 Where: A | X Armani Exchange
What: In stores and online, take $50 off every $150 purchase.

9 Where: Juicy Couture
What: Special offers include glittery iPhone cases for $15 and fur-trimmed velour hoodies at $50 (which usually retail for $128).

10 Where: Banana Republic
What: Take 40 percent off your entire purchase all day long. At Factory stores, everything is 70 percent off through Sunday.

11 Where: Beautybar.com
What: Spend $50 on Friday and receive a gift set from Philosophy featuring three of the brand's new products. Enter code BBGWPBF at checkout. METRO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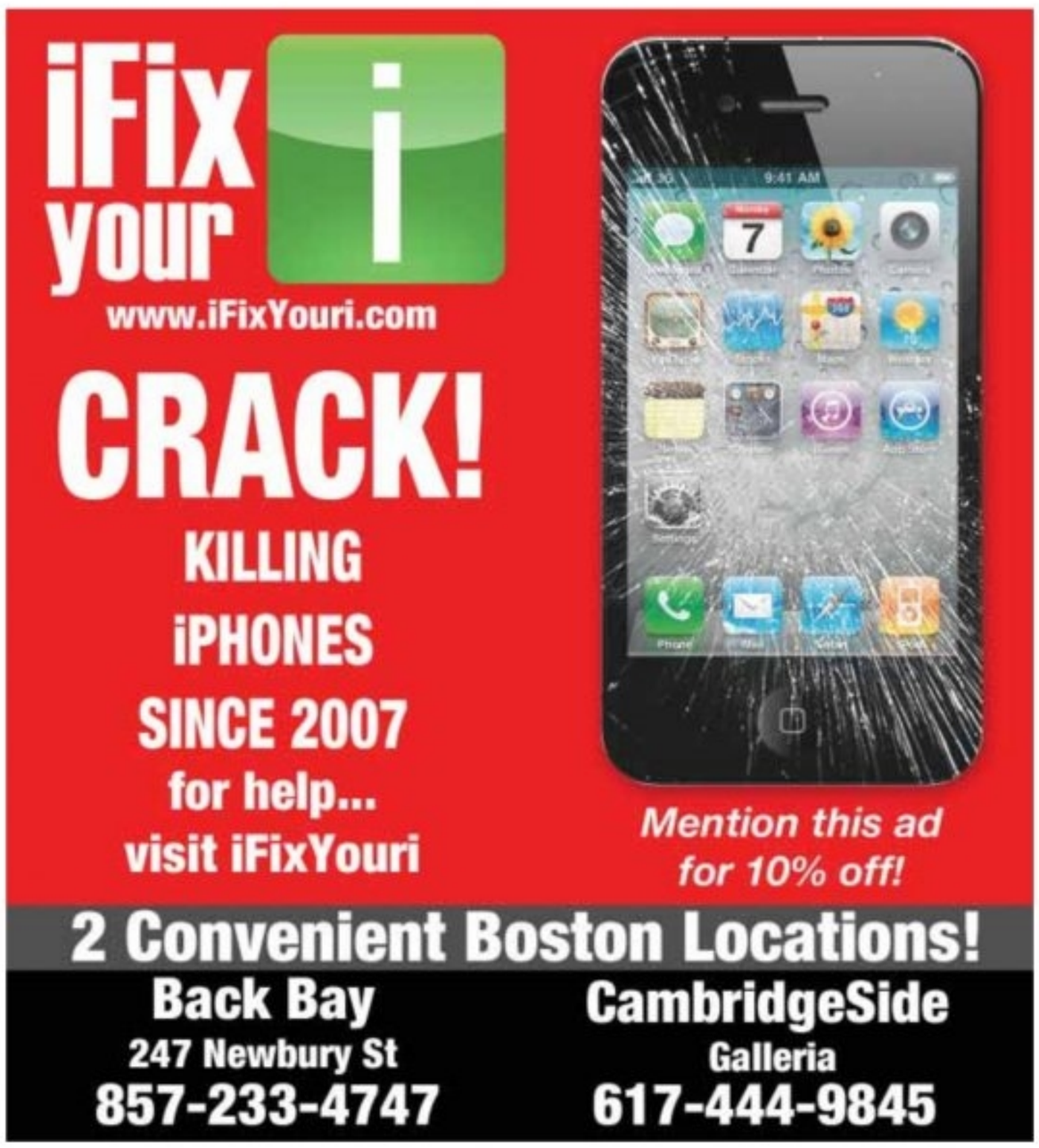

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black friday guide

Gifts for her

Make her extra merry

Terrariums, designer shades, zombie tarot cards: There's no way we missed someone here

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. We love these new domed cake stands from the Martha Stewart Collection — even though we can sense them judging the messy icing on our holiday creations. **$36-$115, at Macy's stores and at www.macys.com**

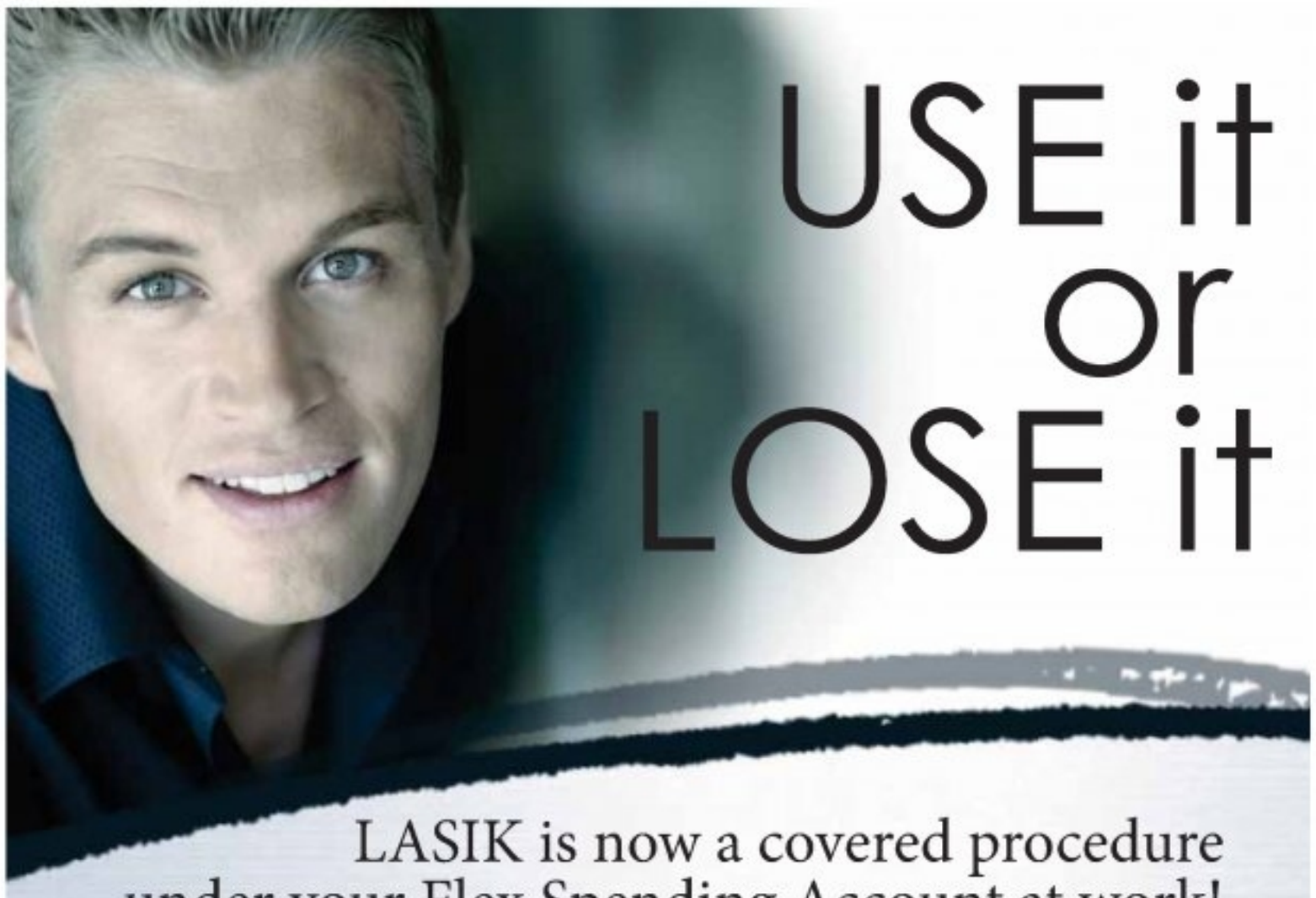
2. Stocking-stuffer all-stars: Aveda's Nourish-mint lip-plumping glazes in Nepali Berry and Himalayan Ice are a gal's best friend this winter. **$18, www.aveda.com**

3. You know what's better than earmuffs? Electric blue earmuffs with built-in headphones. **$98, www.juicycouture.com**

4. Juicy Couture's sequined clutch is the perfect New Year's Eve date. **$248, www.juicycouture.com**

5. If Schwinn's Rendezvous bike isn't her favorite thing under the tree, a Metro staffer will show up to your house and eat said tree. Promise. **$650, www.schwinnbikes.com**

6. Made from hand-blown recycled glass, these teardrop air terrariums house our favorite kind of plants: the ones that don't need to be watered. **$69-$89, www.vivaterra.com**



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School Counseling
Taxation

black friday guide

Gifts for her cont'd

▶ **7.** If you have no idea what to get her, something pretty and personalized will get you off the hook. NYC-based Erica Sara Designs will turn your sweet scribbles into a necklace with the Love Notes Collection. **$78-$138, www.ericasaradesigns.com**

▶ **8.** Admittedly, these Ralph Lauren passport covers look best with tickets to the Caribbean tucked inside. **$48, ww.ralphlauren.com**

▶ **9.** Summer doesn't seem so far away through the lens of Dolce & Gabbana's Sicilian Baroque sunglasses. **$425, www.sunglasshut.com**

▶ **10.** Cat-eyed, leopard-printed, golden serpent-adorned: If you're lucky, you have someone on your list who wants these oversize Roberto Cavalli shades. **$425, www.neimanmarcus.com**

▶ **11.** We don't have a lot of nice things to say about Jessica Simpson, but we're pretty sure she smells amazing. Her Vintage Bloom perfume is fresh, fruity and floral. **$49-$65, at Macy's stores**

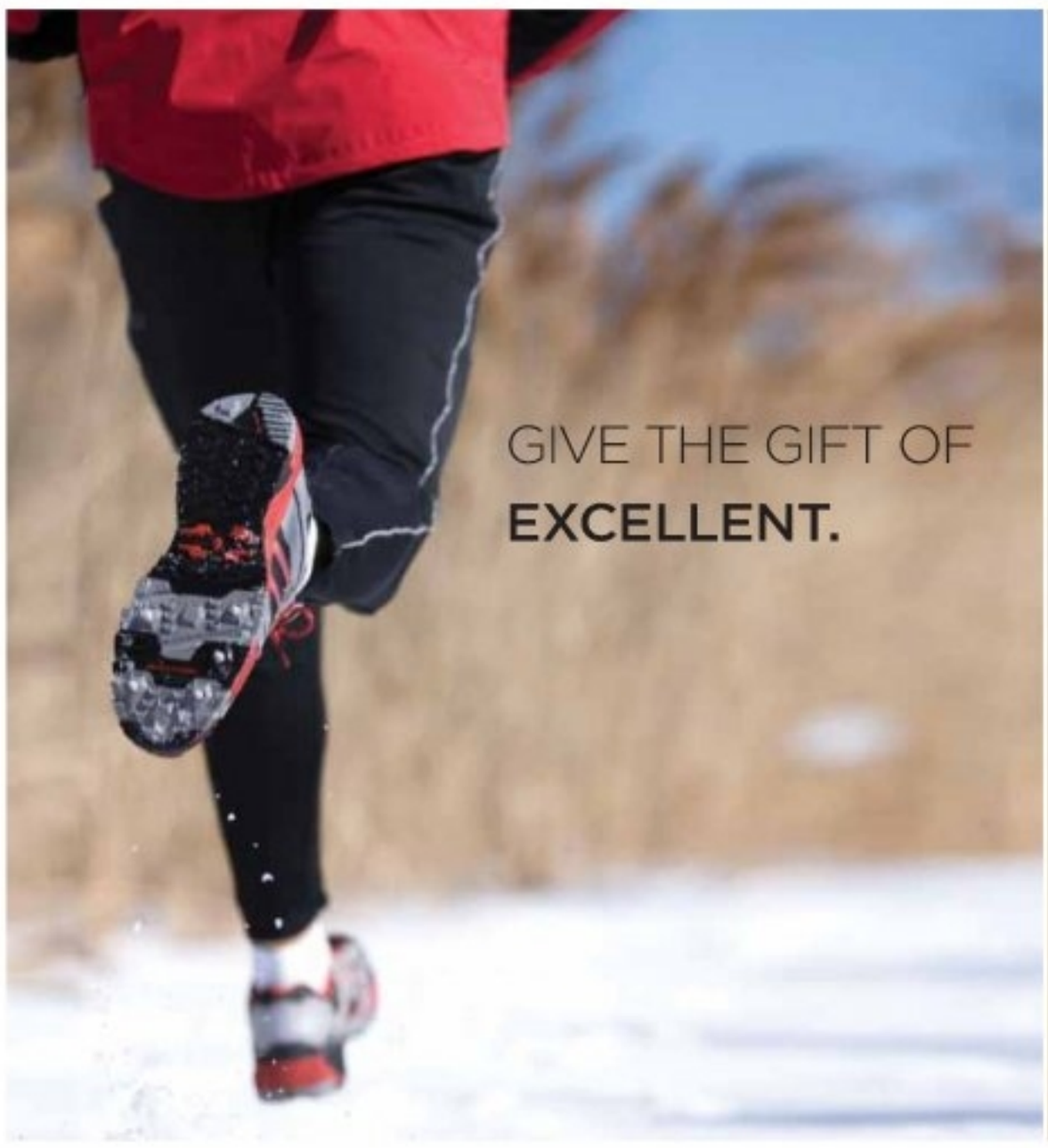
▶ **12.** Chloe + Isabel's whimsical feather cuff will distract her from any missing diamonds this year. **$78, www.chloeandisabel.com**

▶ **13.** Crabtree & Evelyn's Golden Fig Bubblebath fills the bath product quota with style. **$20, www.crabtree-evelyn.com**

▶ **14.** Justin Bieber's Girlfriend hair mist smells like the cutest boy in school just smiled at you under a double rainbow. Buy one for your No. 1 Biebs fan. **$20, www.sephora.com**

Oddball pick

For the woman with everything, including a sick sense of humor: The Zombie Tarot Kit includes 78 cards depicting scenes of undead mayhem and a handy guide to the apocalypse. (Spoiler alert: You're screwed.) **$17, www.barnesandnoble.com**



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Central Discount: -$6981 GM Rebate: -$2000

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*Not to be combined with dealer incentives.

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FWD, AUTO, P/W, P/L.
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MSRP: $26,660
Central Discount: -$1844

Buy For **$24,816**
Lease For **$179.81** Per Mo.*

*Must be used at time of vehicle purchase.

2012 GMC SIERRA 1500

2WD REG. CAB WORK TRUCK

$1,000 TRADE ALLOWANCE AVAIL.*

AUTO, V6,
STK#G12-0689

MSRP: $23,975
Central Discount: -$2098 Bonus Cash: -$1000 GM Rebate: -$2000

Buy For **$17,877**

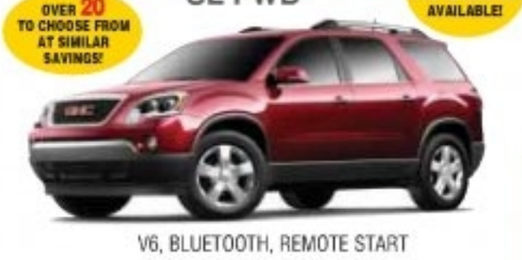
*Not to be combined with dealer incentives.

2012 GMC ACADIA

SL FWD

OVER 20 TO CHOOSE FROM AT SIMILAR SAVINGS!

0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS AVAILABLE!



V6, BLUETOOTH, REMOTE START
STK#CJ2256747

MSRP: $34,290
Central Discount: -$3046 GM Rebate: -$2000

Buy For **$29,244**

*Must be used at time of vehicle purchase.

2012 GMC SIERRA

REG. CAB PICK-UP

AUTO, V8, SNOW PLOW, PREP PKG.
STK#G12-0499

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PLOW READY!

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Central Discount:	-$2281
Customer Cash:	-$2000
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2012 GMC 2500

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MSRP:	$28,295
Central Discount:	-$3296
Customer Cash:	-$2000

Buy For **$22,999**

2012 BUICK ENCLAVE

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0% APR for 72 mos. available for qualified buyers in lieu of rebate

AWD, LEATHER GROUP, BOSE SYSTEM, OnStar
STK#G12-0741

MSRP: $44,380
Central Discount: -$3391 GM Rebate: -$2000

Buy For **$38,989**
Lease For **$369.26** Per Mo.*

2013 BUICK REGAL

V6, ALLOY WHEELS, 2.4L EcoTech
STK#G12-0009

MSRP: $29,940
Central Discount: -$2441 GM Rebate: -$1000

Buy For **$26,499**
Lease For **$199.09** Per Mo.*

2013 BUICK VERANO

$750 USAA MEMBERS**

FWD, AUTO, P/W, P/L.
STK#G13-0020

MSRP: $24,290
Central Discount: -$1494

Buy For **$22,796**
Lease For **$155.89** Per Mo.*

2013 BUICK LACROSSE

$500 GM MILITARY DISCOUNT†

AUTO, P/W, P/L.
STK#G13-0033

MSRP: $32,535
Central Discount: -$2536 Customer Cash: -$1000

Buy For **$28,999**
Lease For **$245.04** Per Mo.*

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2012 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB ST

MANAGER'S SPECIAL!

STK# M12-1354 **MSRP: $34,000**

LEASE FOR **$189** PER MO.*

*Lease: 36 mo. 12K mi/yr. $3,000 due at signing plus tax, title, reg., doc fee and acq. fee.
Must qualify through Harbor One Credit Union and conquest lease rebate. Sale ends: 11/25/12

2013 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

STK# M13-0283 **MSRP: $30,420**

LEASE FOR **$179** PER MO.*

*Lease: 36 mo. 12K mi/yr. $3,000 due at signing plus tax, title, reg., doc fee and acq. fee.
Must qualify through Harbor One Credit Union and conquest lease rebate. Sale ends: 11/25/12

2013 CHRYSLER 300 RWD

STK# M13-0081 **MSRP: $30,840**

LEASE FOR **$199** PER MO.*

*Lease: 36 mo. 12K mi/yr. $3,000 due at signing plus tax, title, reg., doc fee.
Must qualify through Harbor One Credit Union. Sale ends: 11/25/12

ALL NEW 2013 DODGE DART SXT

STK# M13-0002 **MSRP: $19,990**

LEASE FOR **$199** PER MO.*

*Lease: 39 mo. 12K mi/yr. $2,000 due at signing through Ally Bank plus tax, title, reg., doc fee.
Must qualify through Harbor One Credit Union. Sale ends: 11/25/12

THANKSGIVING SAVINGS!

2013 KIA SOUL

STK#K130562 **MSRP: $15,394**

Buy For **$12,888**

Lease For **$99.00** Per Mo.*

2013 KIA RIO LX

STK#K130570 **MSRP: $16,695**

Buy For **$13,865**

Lease For **$129.00** Per Mo.*

2012 KIA FORTE EX

STK#K121174 **MSRP: $18,475**

Buy For **$13,995**

Lease For **$139.00** Per Mo.*

2012 KIA OPTIMA

STK#K121105 **MSRP: $22,660**

Buy For **$18,995**

Lease For **$159.00** Per Mo.*

2013 KIA SPORTAGE LX

STK#K130501 **MSRP: $23,000**

Buy For **$18,995**

Lease For **$159.00** Per Mo.*

2013 KIA SORENTO LX

STK#K130170 **MSRP: $24,190**

Buy For **$19,995**

Lease For **$169.00** Per Mo.*

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Top 3

Tips for surviving the parking lot

Minimize your mall stress with tips from the International Parking Institute:

Think green
"Cruising around for a close parking spot wastes fuel and produces unnecessary carbon emissions that are bad for the environment. Head for a spot further away."

Know the stats
"According to insurance statistics, one-fourth of all vehicle crashes happen while parking. Studies show that backing in to a parking spot makes exiting safer."

Don't be a Grinch
"Show goodwill toward fellow drivers. When waiting for a spot, don't block others looking for parking spaces. Make sure you take up only one spot and that your neighbors can open their doors." METRO

For the holiday hostess

Come bearing (good) gifts

- Everyone brings wine for the hostess
- She's not complaining, but you can do better

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1

1. If you're a holiday houseguest, you may want to bring more than a trinket. Dwell-Studio's globe decanter will keep their table sparkling long after the holidays are over. **$175, www.dwellstudio.com**

2. If you're bringing a bottle, make it extra special with a bow stopper from the Martha Stewart Collection. **$40, at Macy's stores and at www.macys.com**

3. Pier One Imports' nature-inspired ornaments are a welcome treat for any tree. **$5-$6, www.pier1.com**

4. Add a little peace and quiet with VivaTerra's olive plant topiary. **$49, www.vivaterra.com**

5. Honey is always a sweet hostess gift. Bee Raw's adorable "tasting flights" are available in wildflower, fruit, cheese-friendly and rooftop-harvested assortments. **$45, www.beeraw.com**

black friday guide

2

3

4

5

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1. Made from stainless steel and iroko wood, Restoration Hardware's foosball table will make him believe in Santa again. **$3,995, www.restorationhardware.com**

2. Tivoli Audio's noise-canceling Radio Silenz headphones are your ears' true buds. **$160, www.tivoliaudio.com**

3. Native's Jimmy boots made PETA's Vegan Holiday Guide because, like all of the brands' shoes, they're 100 percent animal product-free. They make ours because they're ruby red. **$90, www.zappos.com**

4. There's nothing nerdy about Club Monaco's cheeky new bow

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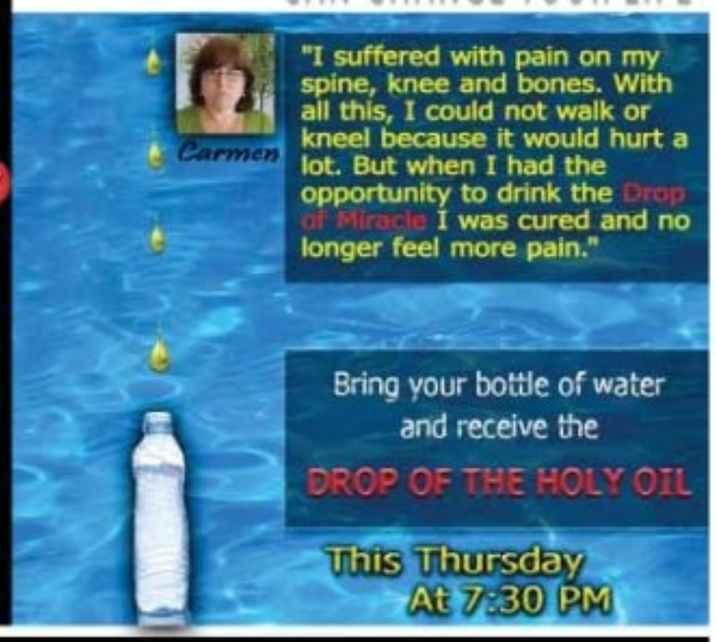
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▶ **5 & 6.** The National Geographic Store is a little-known treasure chest of dude gifts. On our can't-fail list this year: The windproof, water-resistant lighter that laughs in the face of 75mph gusts and the night vision monoculars. You're welcome. **$50 (lighter) and $199 (monoculars), www.ngstore.com**

▶ **7.** Ray-Ban's so-classic aviators turned into a gadget just in time for holiday shopping: These 22-carat shades fold up for easy breezy traveling. **$495, www.sunglasshut.com**

▶ **8.** Because you deserve a man who at least smells like James Bond. Launched for the 50th anniversary of the iconic spy, the 007 fragrance sold out overseas as soon as the Brits got a sniff. **$30-$40, at Kohl's stores**

▶ **9.** Got a gadget fiend on your hands? The iPico handheld projector plugs into your iPhone or iPod touch so no one can escape your baby photo slide shows. **$130, www.beabigshowoff.com**

▶ **10.** Cashmere-covered hand warmers will keep him nice and toasty while cleaning the snow off your car. **$20, www.restorationhardware.com**

Got a geek?

The nerds on your list just got lucky — for once.

▶ For $50, Highland Titles will sell you one square foot of an estate in Glencoe Wood, Scotland — meaning your gift recipient can legally use the Scottish title of lord or lady (and yes, they'll get a title deed to prove it). Proceeds benefit work to preserve forests taken over by industry and farming. **www.highlandtitles.com**

▶ A TED Live membership allows members to stream the TED and TEDGlobal conferences, annual gatherings where big thinkers present their world-changing ideas in 18 minutes or less. It's pricey at $995, but they're throwing in an iPad mini. **www.ted.com**

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POLAR

black friday guide

Think globally, shop locally

▶ At Tiny Hanger, you can get 20 to 50 percent off on Friday.

◗ Oh, the energy! Oh, the bargains! Oh, the humanity of Black Friday shopping! ◗ Metro pulled together some fun Black Friday shopping deals

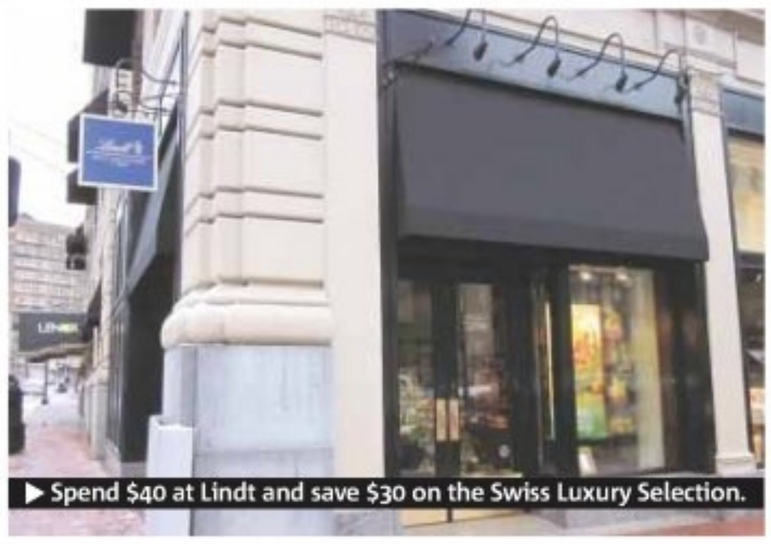
In Harvard Square, **Follow the Honey** — a fabulous store stocked with healing honey goodies — has a 10 percent discount and, from 1 to 3 p.m. and a free 10-minute chair massage for anyone spending $50 or more **(1132 Mass. Ave., 617-945-7356, www.followthehoney.com)**.

Sound Lion, which sells headphones, docking stations and digital sonic ephemera, offers 10 to 40 percent off selected items and a Sound Lion reuseable backpack and mystery gift with every purchase **(35 Brattle St., 617-864-5466, www.soundlion.com)**.

The **Curious George Store** in Harvard Square is the only one in the world! If your little ones are tagging along with you for a shopping excursion, drop by at 10:30 a.m. for storytime. Plus, if you visit the store online before you go and mention that you read the newsletter, you get 10 percent off **(One JFK St., 617-547-4500, www.thecuriousgeorgestore.com)**.

Harvard Book Store begins a week-long 20 percent discount on certain titles, including "Canada" by Richard Ford and "The Flight of Gemma Hardy" by local author Margot Livesey **(1256 Mass. Ave. 617-661-1515, www.harvard.com)**.

The Harvard Shop has a 25 percent discount for students and a 20 percent discount for "normal" people **(52 JFK St., 617-864-3000, www.theharvard-shop.com)**.


▶ Spend $40 at Lindt and save $30 on the Swiss Luxury Selection.

Hit your smartphone and shop **City Wine Tours** for 20 percent off Harvard Square oenophilic tours. Use promo code PlaidFriday **(855-455-8747, www.citywinetours.com)**.

Tucked away in Charles Square, the elegant **Corbu** spa has 20 percent off all retail items, including the organic Eminence line **(5 Bennett St., 617-661-5SPA, www.corbuspa.com)**.

Nearby, in Central Square, **University Stationery Co.** has a 20 percent discount on all non-sale items **(311 Mass. Ave., 617-547-6650, www.universitystationery.com)**.

In Brookline, **Tiny Hanger** children's clothing boutique has discounts of 20 to 50 percent off Hartstrings, Bambeeno Cashmere, Oliliy and Feather Baby **(14 Pleasant St., 617-487-5501, www.tinyhanger.com)**.

In Jamaica Plain, the tres cool **Tres Gatos** opens early at noon for a day-to-night discount of 10 percent off all used vinyl **(470 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain, 617-477-4851, www.tresgatosjp.com)**. During most shopping experiences, you have to take time out to eat, but at Tres Gatos, you can eat tapas while shopping!

In Back Bay, **Arianna** has a buy-one, get-one-free deal (that's one for your gift recipient and one for you!) on its luxe Dead Sea mineral skincare **(151 Tremont St., 781-874-2147, www.arianna-skincare.com)**.

Fabulous **Ted Baker** has an astounding 30 percent off his entire Autumn/Winter line **(201 Newbury St., 617-450-8339, www.tedbaker-london.com)**.

Who doesn't adore **Lindt** chocolate? Spend $40 at the cute Boston store — there's holiday gift boxes, stocking stuffers and Santa, snowman and reindeer chocs — and save $30 on the praline-packed Swiss Luxury Selection, yours for just $10. Also, shoppers get one free Lindor truffle in limited-edition holiday flavors like dark peppermint truffle and snowman truffle **(704 Boylston St., 617-236-0571, www.lindtusa.com)**.

At Faneuil Hall, **Stitch by Stitch** offers free embroidery on hats and **Lucky Decor** has 30 percent off necklaces **(South Market Building, 617-523-7777, www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com)**.

Artists For Humanity's store is packed with great gifts of art (a mere $17 gets the fabulous Bahston bahk bahk t-shirt), all designed and made by Boston-area teens (Faneuil Hall Square, 617-268-7620, www.afhboston.org).

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Tasteful holiday treasure.

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Gifts for sipping

Toast the holidays

When in doubt, everyone appreciates a bottle of booze

From classy bubbles to trendy newcomers, what's making our liquid gift list this year

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. Highland Park 18 Year Old is pulling a George Clooney: No tricks, no flashy packaging, just the same old classic everyone wants a taste of. **$100, www.highlandpark.co.uk**

2. The more bubbly the better this time of year. Moet & Chandon's Twinkle Box isn't just a cute hostess gift, it stays chilly for up to two hours so no one is scrambling for ice buckets. **$42, www.moet.com**

3. Patron partnered up with fashion designer John Varvatos for this limited-edition bottle, complete with a tunable guitar bottle stopper. **$53, www.patronspirits.com**

4. For the absolute girliest drinkers on your list, Timbaland's new sparkling liqueur, LeSutra, blends vodka with sparkling white wine and is available in peach, grape, blueberry and strawberry flavors. **$25, www.drinklesutra.com**

Bottle snuggle

A ribbon will do the trick, but we love how Restoration Hardware's faux fur wine bag dresses up a bottle. **$12, www.restorationhardware.com**

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Thanksgiving Weekend
Shriner's Auditorium * Wilmington, MA
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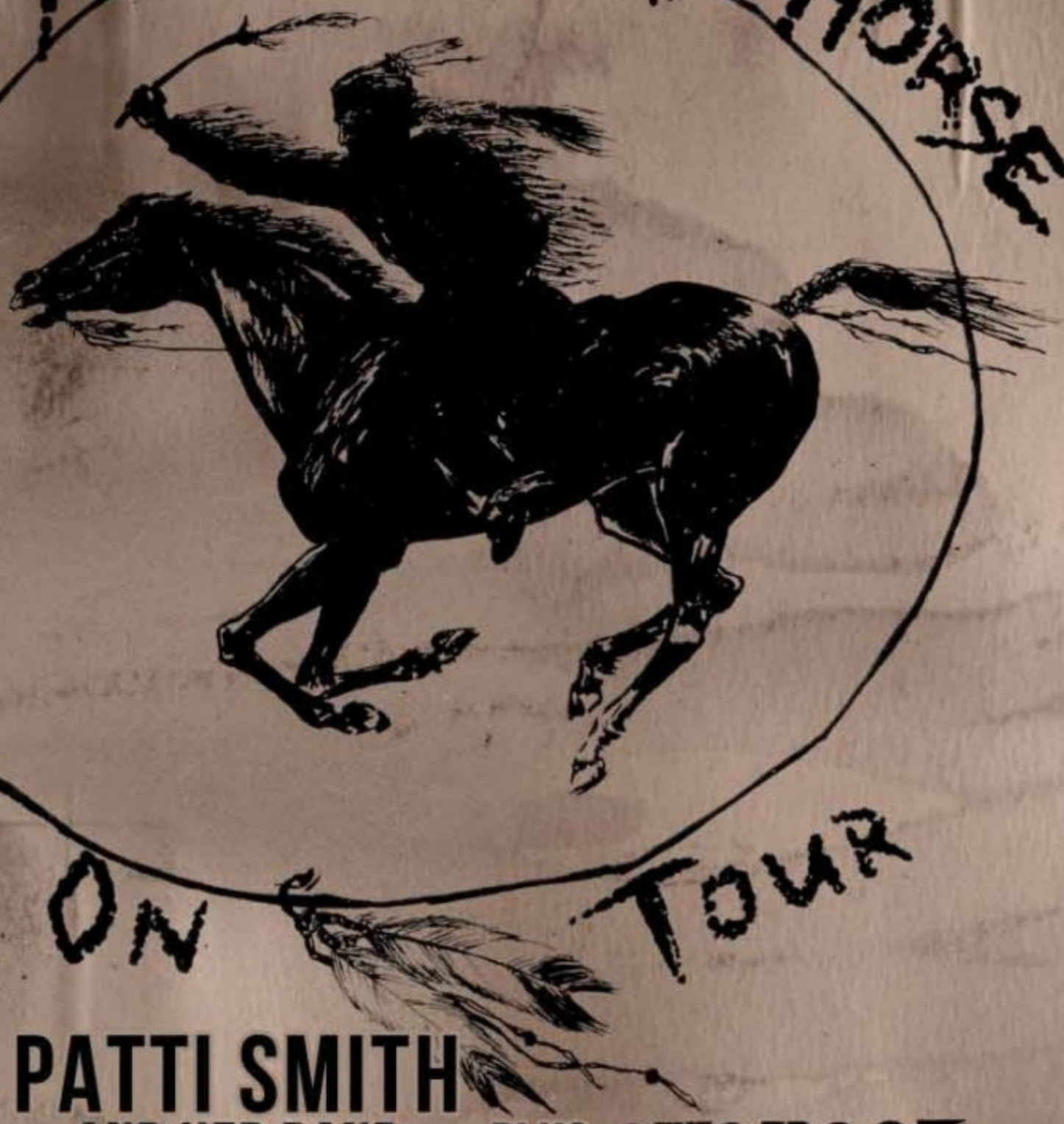

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